

Remarks

Currently pending in the application are Claims 1-28. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hager et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,391,935). Hager et al. generally teaches an isocyanate-reactive mixture that includes a monool and a polyol and the use of this mixture for preparing a visco-elastic polyurethane foam. *See U.S. Pat. No. 6,391,935*.

Applicant respectfully submits Hager et al. neither teaches nor suggests a polyol composition that includes a monool and three different polyols, each polyol having an average equivalent weight between 800 and 4000, or a process for preparing visco-elastic polyurethane foam utilizing this polyol composition as claimed in the present application.

First, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify the teachings of Hager et al. and arrive at Applicants claimed invention. As noted above, Hager et al. teaches the preparation of visco-elastic foams utilizing an isocyanate-reactive mixture including a monool and a polyol. Hager et al. states the “key to formulating viscoelastic foams over a broad range of processing conditions and isocyanate indices” is the use of a monool having a number average equivalent weight of more than 1000 and a polyol having a number average equivalent weight of less than 600. *See id.* at col. 2, ls. 50-66. Hager et al. does not teach nor suggest the use of a monool in combination with three different polyols, each polyol having an average equivalent weight between 800 and 4000, as claimed in the present application.

Furthermore, there is no reasonable expectation that modifying the teachings of Hager et al. would produce a successful process for preparing visco-elastic polyurethane foam as claimed in the present application. In fact, Hager et al. notes that a skilled person would infer that the use of a monool in combination with a triol having a molecular weight between 2000-6500 produces foams lacking visco-elastic character. *See id.* at col. 2, ls. 25-31. However, Applicant has surprisingly found the polyol composition of the present invention containing a monool and three different polyols, each polyol having an average equivalent weight between 800 and 4000, produces a visco-elastic polyurethane foam which exhibits excellent physical properties, such as a low resilience and improved relaxation factor. *See U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/694,128* at 12.

Finally, Hager et al. does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Hager et al. does not teach or suggest a polyol composition that includes a monool and three different polyols, each polyol having an average equivalent weight between 800 and 4000, or the use of this polyol composition in a process for preparing a visco-elastic polyurethane foam as claimed in the present application.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be removed.

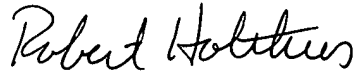
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed towards the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Holthus".

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